

F 97

L93

Roger Ludlowe

An Historical Sketch

prepared by

John H. Perry

For his Associates in the Fairfield Historical Society at the
Observance of the Two Hundred and Seventy Fifth
Anniversary of the Founding of the Town

1914

Published by the Fairfield Historical Society
Press of the Bridgeport Standard

ROGER LUDLOWE

by

John H. Perry



A quarter of a millenium and almost exactly a quarter of a century ago in September 1639 the history of Fairfield began just across Eliot street from the present home of the Society which finds a worthy occupation in perpetuating it. The early life of the plantation was directed by and centered about Roger Ludlowe whose signature distinguishes our seal and whose story I am asked to tell on this occasion.

He came of an English family early domiciled in Shropshire and from thence moving into Wiltshire where his ancestors are found in the first rank of gentlemen entitled as Knights of the Shire to stand as candidates to represent their county in Parliament, an honor which they seldom failed to acquire. The arms of the family were: Argent a chevron between three martins' heads erased sable. Crest: A demi martin rampant sable. Motto: Omne solum forti patria (To a brave man every land is home).

Our Roger was the second son of Thomas Ludlowe of Dinton, Wiltshire, gentleman, and Jane Pyle, sister of Sir Gabriel Pyle, Knight, and was baptized if not born on March 7th, 1590. He accordingly founded Fairfield in his forty-ninth year. He was cousin to Lieut.-General Edmund Ludlowe who was a member of the Court at the trial of King Charles, and was called by Macaulay "the most illustrious survivor of a mighty race of men, the judges of a King, the founders of a republic."

His eldest brother, Gabriel, was called to the Bar in England in 1620 and became a Bencher in 1637. His youngest brother, George, emigrated to New England and thence to Yorktown, in Virginia, where he acquired a large estate and

became lieutenant of the county with the rank of Colonel and a member of the Council. He owned one-sixteenth of the ship *Mayflower*.

Roger matriculated at Oxford from Baliol College on June 16th, 1610, but did not graduate, and became a student in the Inner Temple in November, 1612. The succeeding eighteen years preceding his departure were devoted to the study and practice of the law, and in them he acquired a professional equipment such as was possessed by no other immigrant of his time.

With such lineage and training he necessarily found a congenial place among those "who were called by duty as well as choice to the field of adventure and preferment then opening in New England." To this service he gave his fortune and his highly trained endeavors.

In March, 1628, a royal grant of certain estates across the sea was obtained by John Endecott and others who were known as "The Dorchester Company."

Some months later the original patentees with twenty new associates procured from King Charles the famous Charter of the "Governor and Company of Massachusetts Bay in New England." In this Company Ludlowe was chosen an assistant by the stockholders in London on October 20th, 1629, "that his counsel and judgement might aid in preserving order and founding the social structure upon the surest basis."

In the Dorchester and Bay Companies he was associated with the leading minds of his day, makers of the English as well as the New England Commonwealth. To be chosen as an assistant by such men, a position equivalent to that of a managing director in the Company's affairs, was honor indeed. To serve also as Deputy Governor in both Colonies, Governor de facto in Connecticut, Magistrate, Commissioner, Legislator, Jurist, Judge, Maker of Treaties, Deviser of Constitutions, Compiler of Laws, and Champion of Democracy became his inevitable task in the land of his adoption.

On the 20th of March, 1630, Ludlowe set sail from Plymouth in the ship **Mary and John**, a ship of four hundred

tons which he then or thereafter owned, with John Mason, Underhill, Patrick, Southcote, and Smith, the minister Maverick and his colleague Wareham, and, what Cotton Mather called, "an honorable Company" of lesser notables. In May of that year, a month in advance of Andrew Warde, he landed on Nantasket Point, and finally settled at Mattapan which subsequently became Dorchester.

He is said in some biographies to have married Mary Endecott, the sister of Governor Endecott already mentioned, but it is more probable that he married Mary Cogan, the daughter of Philobert Cogan of Chard, in Somerset, who was the sister of Endecott's wife. (N. E. Hist. and Gen. Reg., Vol. 43, P. 310.) This marriage had apparently taken place before he sailed.

Through five industrious years he labored acceptably for Massachusetts and so earned the right to be called chief which the Bible awards to those who serve. The servant of all he thereby became the greatest of all.

He was conceded to be and characterized as "the principal lay citizen of Dorchester." He was one of its three stockholders in the Bay Company. He selected the site for its plantation and was a land owner, land commissioner, land viewer, and surveyor there. He was appointed a justice of the peace with Winthrop and Saltonstall soon after his arrival; negotiated the first treaty with the Pequots and another with the Narragansetts and Mohegans; served as Administrator of estates; drafted orders and laws to meet emergencies and was Colonel *ex officio*. When the subversion of the Colonial government through the instrumentality of Laud was threatened by the King in 1634 and the Colonists resolved to defend themselves by force if necessary, he was made "overseer of the work at Castle Island," (now Fort Independence,) one of the most important defences on the coast, and finally was chosen a member of a military commission of most extraordinary authority with Winthrop, Dudley, Haynes, Endecott, Bellingham, Pyncheon and Bradstreet as his associates. To reverse the familiar motto, **Ex omnibus disce unum.**

But although he stood thus high in the councils and confidence of his contemporaries, matters in the Bay Colony were shaping to an end which must inevitably cost it his allegiance in common with that of Hooker, Haynes, Stone and our own Andrew Warde.

At a meeting of the General Court of the Colony in May, 1631, it was

“Ordered and decreed that for the time to come no man shall be admitted to the freedom of this body politic but such as are members of some of the churches within the limits of the same.”

“Thus these men who had expatriated themselves for the sake of civil and religious liberty undertook to build a state on the basis of a church covenant with ecclesiastical domination in spiritual and temporal affairs alike.”

The ultimate outcome of this was foreordained. First came friction, then heat, then sparks, then flame, then the separating and dissipating consequences which follow conflagration. Four years was the period of this inevitable progression, during all of which Ludlowe served his associates in the labors more abundant which have been above enumerated.

On May 14th, 1634, he had been elected Deputy Governor and in due course should have been Governor in 1635, but was defeated by John Haynes who is contemporaneously described as “of large estate and larger affections and dear to the people by his benevolent virtues and disinterested conduct,” although Ludlowe himself referred to him as his “evil genius.”

While this was justly a great disappointment, it was doubtless only a minor one among the reasons which prompted him to join those who soon after—to use their own language—“followed the strong bent of their spirits to remove.”

“The controlling factor in the whole situation lay in the fact that men of masterful purposes, of broad views of human rights, of faith in democratic principles, could not long brook the church membership test of suffrage, the exclusiveness and

the arrogance of ministerial interference and dictation in public and private affairs."

Thus Massachusetts lost the services of one of her ablest men, and Connecticut, acquiring him as a pioneer, to this day enjoys the works of his hand in her unique constitution, her unexcelled jurisprudence and her political and religious liberty.

The valley of the Long River was not an unknown land to the men of this new emigration. Its spell had long before been cast upon Dutch and English adventures, and the Sagamore Wahquinnaut, an ambassador from Sassacus, who came first to Ludlowe and dined with Governor Winthrop, had urged the colonists to come to his country and given glowing descriptions of its attractiveness.

Small parties from the three Bay towns, Dorchester, Newtown and Watertown, came to Connecticut in the summer of 1635 (as Brewster informs us in his contemporaneous letter) to choose locations for their families. Ludlowe came with those from Dorchester, and Mathew Grant, the surveyor, in his first distribution set out a large lot to him at what was again called Dorchester, for they brought the names of their Massachusetts homes with them; but Dorchester soon became Windsor, named from the royal city; Newtown Hartford, the English birthplace of Mr. Stone, and Watertown Wethersfield, John Talcott's foreign home.

The lot so set out to him contained 122 acres and was situated on the "island road" at the "two bridges" between Mr. Samuel Allen and Mr. Henry Wolcott. On this lot he built a "stone house" which was "drowned very deep" in the flood of 1638-9.

This house is believed to have stood near where the new Loomis Institute road now turns off from the old highway toward the railroad.

Just here the undoubted facts compel the painful admission that Ludlowe and his company established themselves in Windsor by a ruthless belligerency which calmly swept aside the lawful claims of prior occupants.

He returned to the Bay for the following winter, and in March, 1636, the General Court of Massachusetts empowered a commission of eight to govern those who thus "had resolved to transplant themselves and their estates unto the river of Connecticut." "Roger Ludlowe, Esq.," was named first on this commission and Andrew Warde last. To it were accorded in combination the usual powers of Legislature Court and Executive. Its enabling act is a familiar document in American history.

Thus was Roger Ludlowe selected by those who knew him best to be the virtual head of this first experiment in true democracy and his loss of the Massachusetts Governorship might well be thenceforth forgotten.

He forthwith moved to Windsor, and the first entry in the Colonial records of Connecticut is that of a "Corte holden att Newton (Hartford) 26 April, 1636," over which he with four of his associates on the Commission presided.

During the ensuing year he held several "Cortes" the records of which have been preserved, at once instituted jury trials, and doubtless labored constantly and effectively in the arduous task of guiding the three river towns on that untried way which was to ultimately become Connecticut.

Although the Charter of the Commission expired by its terms in March, 1637, a renewal was never sought or granted. The river towns had always intended and now learned to stand alone. Ludlowe appears to have continued by common consent to act as chief executive. On the first day of May, 1637, he presided over what the record describes as a "Generall Corte at Harteford"—the initial occurrence by the way of that title for the tribunal—and there "an offensuive warr agt, the Pequoitt" was declared, an act sometimes described as the first display of sovereignty in New England.

"A pink, a pinnace and a shallop" thereupon took down the river more than one-half the fighting men of the three "plantacons" and, before the issue is known, Ludlowe, weighed down with the responsibility for the administration of the

almost defenceless settlements, on May 17th writes in part as follows to his friend Pyncheon in like stress at Springfield:

“For my part my spirit is ready to sink within me when upon alarms which are daily I think of your condition. * * *
* * * But I must confess both you and ourselves do stand merely by the power of our God, therefore he must and ought to have all the praise of it. * * * * Our plantations are so gleaned by that small fleet we sent out that those that remain are not able to supply our watches: * * * * and what we plant is before our doors, little anywhere else.”

On the 26th of the following month he was ordered by the “Genrall Corte” in conjunction with “Mr. Haine” “to parle with the bay” about Pequoitt matters, and in July he accompanied the force which on July 13th under the command of his friend and fellow ship-mate in the *Mary* and *John*, Captain Mason, exterminated that tribe in the great swamp fight in Southport. Thus active in war as well as in peace, and always observant, his zealous attention to the task committed to his charge brought him to Fairfield, and coming he saw that which made its “taking up” so worth while as to be speedily consummated.

For the time being, however, he returned with the victorious troops to the river towns, although “fair Uncowa with its hills and streams, rich intervalles and forest lands” had captured his imagination.

Just here he diversifies the sameness of his constant civil service with the only ecclesiastical labor which I find credited to him and, with Mr. Pyncheon as his fellow delegate, accompanies Mr. Hooker and Mr. Stone to a colonial Synod where in twenty-two days they helped to condemn eighty-two distinct teachings of the Antinomians, and, for some reason not clearly evident, took with them a scalp from those of which the Pequot heads had been so recently bereft.

Before these days his name had always headed the list of the magistrates who held the various courts upon the river, but his successful competitor for the governorship of Massachusetts had now moved to Connecticut, and, whether on

account of his greater wealth and far greater diplomacy, or for some other reason, soon took precedence here, and from November 14th, 1637 Mr. Haynes' name appears first and Ludlowe's second. In this sequence he appears in the roll call of each General Court until the birthday of Connecticut as a Commonwealth on January 14th, 1639 for an "orderly and decent government established according to God with duties and powers and restrictions put into writing and published dates for Connecticut and for the civilized world from that day."

"It was very quietly done, this momentous act, this first written Constitution known to history that created a government. Its adoption was the beginning of American democracy and that is the same as to say of all properly safeguarded popular government the wide world over."

The Fundamental Orders of Connecticut are one of the epoch-marking documents of history, and yet no account exists of the method or surrounding circumstances of their adoption. They stand upon the records of the State without introduction or background or comment save the single concluding line:

"14th January 1638-9 the 11 orders above said are voted."

They were plainly deemed to be self explanatory and self sufficient. They are the Melchizadek among the Magna Chartas of the World.

Some historians find in the "General Court" of those days the then equivalent of the present General Assembly, and in as much as the 7th article of this instrument defines one of the duties of that Court to be "to agitate the afayres of the Commonwealth," the claim seems to be well founded. Our only concern with them today is to note the fact that, ever since their monumental character came to be recognized and written of, Roger Ludlowe is conceded to have been the artificer of their form. While he doubtless was also influential in determining the principles involved he certainly clothed those principles in the language used.

On April 11th, 1639, at the first "Court of Election" created by and held under this new constitution he was elected Deputy Governor—Mr. Haynes being Governor—and on August 8th was appointed with the Governor and Mr. Wells "to goe to the River's mouth to consult with Mr. Fenwick about a treaty of combination" with some of the other New England colonies which may have been the initial step in the federation hereafter referred to.

On the 15th of the same month he reports to the General Court the result of this endeavor, but at the next Court held on September 5th, 1639, his name—for the first time since he came to Connecticut—does not appear in the list of magistrates present, nor does it appear in the record of the Court held five days later, and he is then fined five shillings "for being absent."

He appears again among the magistrates holding a Particular Court on October 3rd, and at a General Court held a week later the record states that "Mr. Deputy informed the Court that he had understood since his returne offence hath beene taken att some of his proceedings in his late journey to Pequonnoeke and the parts thereabouts" whereupon he proceeds to explain his conduct, and the margin of the old record is inscribed "Mr. Ludlowe his apology for taking up Uncoa."

Thus by grace of an unprecedented absence, a side note and an apology we are enabled to accord to the month of September, 1639, the distinction of having seen the birth of Fairfield.

Ludlowe explains that "att his coming to the Pequonnoeke he found cause to alter his former thoughts of * * * wintering there," and finding that undesirable persons were planning to "take up a Plantacon beyond * * * he adventured to drive his cattle thither * * * and to sett out himself and some others house lotts to build on there * * * and submitts * * * whether he hath transgressed the Commission or nott."

The Court "unanimously conceaved that his proceedings could not be warranted by the Commission" and, apparently

that he might be judged by his peers, appointed the then Governor Haynes and the future Governor Wells to visit the place and adjust the matter.

At a General Court held the following January "the opportunity of * * Wethersfield * * concerning Uncoa" was answered by a report from this Committee that they had "thought fitt * * to confirme" Mr. Ludlowe's acts. We thus, and in no other way, learn that Ludlowe started on his journey with friends and cattle to settle at Pequonnoeke under some kind of Commission, the nature of which is not disclosed, except that it did not cover the settling of Uncoa, and that Uncoa appearing to our discerning, intrepid and always headstrong adventurer too good to lose was nevertheless "planted".

It should be explained that the district then called Pequonnoek extended from the Pequonnoek River westerly toward, if not to, Ash Creek.

Before finally leaving the General Court of October 10th, 1639, however, we should note that indexed land records were thereby ordered and town clerks appointed for the first time in New England, and provision made for the orderly settling of testate and intestate estates, all of which is convincingly credited to Mr. Ludlowe.

He is also appointed Chairman of a Committee to "gather up" the "remarkable passages of God's providence" from the beginning of the Colony and report them for record.

An affidavit of John Green found in Vol. A of our records at page 447 shows that some, if not all, of those who came with him to Uncoa were John Green, Edward Jessup, Thomas Newton, Thomas Staples and Edmund Strickland. The "house lott" so as aforesaid "sett out" to him was on the northwest side of Eliot Street, a short distance east of Mr. Betts' store, and near by were the lots of his above named companions. He left his "cattle" here, but evidently did not then build a house for himself, since he was soon back in Hartford as the above quoted record of October 3d shows.

He sat in six Courts between October 3d, 1639, and March 5th, 1640, both inclusive, but was absent on April 2d, and thereafter continuously until the General Court for the election of magistrates in April, 1642, when he was elected Deputy Governor again. This interval in his attendance at the court on the river probably indicates the time when he was busy at Uncoa building his house, providing for and protecting his interests and ordering the affairs of the new plantation.

In February, however, while still in Windsor, he was "intreated to consider some orders" about intestate estates and corporal punishment and land tenures, for during his entire sojourn in Connecticut toll was taken of his legal knowledge constantly.

During his absence from the General Court and the place of its sessions, he was by no means forgotten, for in April, 1640, he was chosen a magistrate and appointed with Mr. Haynes and Mr. Wells "to settle, the bounds between Paquonoeke and Uncowaye" and to "tender the oath of Fidelity to the Inhabitants of the said Townes." In June of that year he was ordered to "set out the bounds betwixt the Plantations of Cuphege (now Stratford) and Uncowaye" and to join with Mr. Hopkins of Cuphege in administering justice there, and in April, 1641, was again elected a magistrate.

The first twelve pages of the first volume of our town records are missing, and the entries there begin with the year, 1649, which is probably old style for 1650, so that any information about his actions here which may have been contained in the lost pages will never be available. It was undoubtedly brief at the best, and probably related simply to his grants of land. What most, if not all, of these were we know sufficiently well from the record of the sales made by him just before he left, and hereafter referred to. We do know that the town was started by Ludlowe both geographically and civilly in orderly and well considered fashion and that its fashion and its founder soon attracted here the best blood in both the Connecticut and New Haven Colonies. The same intelligent concern for the welfare of his Colony which led

him at the outset to exceed his commission westward beyond Pequonnoek soon made apparent the desirability of acquiring territory farther westward still, and on February 26th, 1641 "the Indians of Norwalke" are persuaded by largess of wampum, tobacco, looking glasses, and jews harps,—the coin current of that aboriginal realm,—to convey to "Mst. Roger Ludlowe of faierfield" the territory extending from the middle of the Norwalk river to the middle of the Soakatuck river and from the sea a day's walk into the country.*

What his dealings with the Indians of Fairfield had been we do not know. No deeds from them to him have ever come to light, or from them to the inhabitants prior to his departure. The three deeds which cover the present town and more are dated 1656, 1661 and 1670, but contain no reference to him or any suggestion that the previous relations between the aboriginal grantors and the inhabitants had been otherwise than satisfactory.

The deed from the Norwalk Indians is witnessed by Thomas Ludlowe and one Adam. Adam was evidently the Indian servant given to him by Massachusetts. Thomas is said by the Norwalk historian Selleck to have been his son. His brother Gabriel had a son Thomas but I find no evidence that Roger had such a child.

This Norwalk property Ludlowe agreed on June 19, 1650, to surrender to Nathaniel Eli and others in consideration that they would "sett upon the plantinge of Norwalk with all convenient speed," pay him fifteen pounds with interest and give to "his sonnes" one of the "first lots laied out" of the value of £200. There is nothing, however, to indicate that any lot was ever so set apart.

On April 13, 1654—one month before he parts with all his property in Fairfield—he executes a formal transfer of the Norwalk land to Eli and his associates, and acknowledges himself "satisfied."

*This deed shows that Fairfield had before this date begun in local usage to supplant Uncowa or Uncowaye as the name of the new town, although the records of the State do not seem to use it until 1645.

A conspicuously handsome monument of bronze and granite in south eastern Norwalk now characterizes Ludlowe as the "founder" of that town.

Emboldened by your civic pride and guarded by your friendship, I venture to claim that Ludlowe founded only one town and that that town was Fairfield.

As public affairs were administered in the Bay Colony in 1635 and 1636 when "the Dorchester Church" (for so were the settlers there contemporaneously described) with its minister moved to Windsor, no lay member of the pilgrimage, however learned, could successfully claim to have founded the place where it next "set downe," while the above transcription of what really happened between the Saugatuck and Norwalk rivers ought to make the monument blush for its metallic statement.

After his election as Deputy Governor in 1642 he sat once in the General Court before the next Court of Election at which, not being eligible under the custom for consecutive re-appointment as deputy, he was chosen a magistrate, appointed moderator of the particular court, and directed to hold two local courts for Stratford and Uncoway during the year.

In November, 1643, the Colony "deseired" him to review "the Souldears of the townes uppon the sea coast." If Franklin was "many sided" surely Roger Ludlowe was as truly so.

He was reelected Magistrate in 1644 and 45 but apparently was still busy in the new plantation, and attended court only once. His labors had by this time produced a degree of prosperity in Fairfield which caused it in 1645 to be for the first time included in the rate levy of the Colony.

He was again elected magistrate in 1646 and "deseired to take some paynes in drawing forth a body of laws for the government of this Commonwealth," and it was ordered that two particular courts be held immediately preceding the two general courts "that both the assistance of Mr. Ludlowe may be had and such actions as fall out betwixt any uppon the River and the Townes by the sea side be more comfortably attended."

The "body of lawes" above referred to was finally completed by Ludlowe and adopted by the General Court in May, 1650. No record or evidence exists to show that he was ever compensated therefor beyond the statement that "it is the mynd of the Court that he be considered for his paynes." To this day it is known as "Ludlowe's Code." It is not a revision or compilation but "a systematic and comprehensive body of laws prefaced by a Bill of Rights in which are contained several of the leading provisions of Magna Charta."

It is a marvelous production for a wilderness inhabitant and in form and substance most of its articles are today embodied in the general legislation of the State.

He was elected a magistrate in 1647 and Deputy Governor in 1648, then again first magistrate in 1649, 50, 51, 52 and 53, but at the Court of Election on May 18th, 1654, his name does not appear and therewith, except for the Staples trial, he passes out of Connecticut history.

After his last election as Deputy Governor he participated in the General Court at Hartford only five times, except when it sat as a Court of Election, for other lawyers well enough equipped for the purpose had come to the front, but he was regularly elected a member of it and in all matters of moment to the colony at large was generally accorded a prominent position. He is sent on commissions to the New Haven Colony, and in 1649 is "desired" to prepare the "Souldgers" for the Indian War.

In 1643 Connecticut joined with Massachusetts, Plymouth and New Haven—Saybrook also having some place—to form a federation known as The United Colonies of New England to better meet the ever present peril from the Dutch and Indians. To the meetings of this Federation Ludlowe was sent as Commissioner from Connecticut for the years 1648, 51, 52 and 53, and when the peril from the Dutch was believed to have become imminent and the federated colonies seemed to act tardily or not to act at all, Fairfield in the fall of 1653 declared war all by herself and appointed Ludlowe Command-

er in Chief of her forces which he proceeded at once to enlist and drill.

The shafts of criticism forthwith filled the air and struck and rankled, but no bullets of the real enemy drew blood. Certain actions of the colonial authorities at this time and in this connection he declared to be "a reflection on his patriotism."

Soon thereafter Thomas Staples sued him for slandering Mrs. Staples in a talk with Rev. John Davenport of New Haven about witchcraft, at the trial of which suit on May 29th, 1654, judgement was rendered for fifteen pounds damages—clearly against the evidence—and again for ten pounds in a second suit tried in October. His attorney was Ensign Alexander Bryan of Milford. The record of the first suit states that Ludlowe himself was not present and describes him as "late of Fairfield."

His first home, a tract of two acres on what is now Eliot Street, he conveyed on January 4th, 1654, to Daniel Finch, bounding it northwest with the common, southwest with land of Walter Lancaster, southeast with the highway, and northeast with land of William Heydon, and just a month later the town set out to him a "homelot" of five acres on the northwest side of the present main street at the Benson corners, bounded on three sides by highways, and now owned by Mrs. Auchincloss and Miss Jennings.

The removal of his former Eliot street neighbor Andrew Warde in December 1653 to the second homelot west of this Main street corner may have influenced this purchase, but if Ludlowe ever lived there it was for the briefest time.

On May 10th, 1654, he conveyed to his above mentioned friend and Attorney Alexander Bryan (or Briant) this new homelot together with many acres of other land situated in widely separated parts of the town, including forty-seven and one-half acres at the end of Kennedy's or Sasco Point.

Bryant conveyed the homelot on the next day to Nathan Gold, a man of commanding character, who after Ludlowe's departure largely took his place in Fairfield.

Gold had come here from Milford in the New Haven Colony in 1649, and Andrew Warde of the same colony came at about the same time. My own first lineal ancestor in the town, Richard Perry, probably the one time Secretary of that name in the New Haven Colony, had also recently moved in and was then living on the opposite side of Main Street.

For reasons which can only be conjectured, Roger Ludlowe left Fairfield and Connecticut between May 10th, and 29th, 1654, never to return. It is supposed that an accumulation of slights, disappointments, undeserved criticisms, petty jealousies and failure to recognize his priceless services, culminating in his failure to attain the Governorship, the Dutch War episode, and the Staples law suit determined his departure, although Mr. John M. Taylor, his latest biographer, conceives it to be quite possible that an invitation from Oliver Cromwell, to whom he was well known, to return and enter the service of the English Commonwealth may have been a super-added and controlling cause, for it is known that at this time such invitations were coming to this country. He was too efficient a man to be round-cornered, too energetic to be companionable, too direct to be diplomatic, too self-reliant and out-spoken to be popular. Always **fortiter in re** he was apparently seldom **suaviter in modo**. He was a wilderness subduer and a foundation builder, not a social favorite. The Massachusetts records disclose that while an important question of government was under discussion there he "grew into a passion and continued stiff in his opinions," and on two occasions men were fined for piling epithets upon him which were possibly deserved but decidedly unpleasant for the person described to listen to. When in 1635 he failed of promotion to the Governorship, he stormed about in a way which made no friends, and even the sainted wife of John Davenport felt justified in describing him under oath as "free in his speech." Among the contentions of those days he was described as "the cheffe man." Be it said to his credit however, that among his other contentions he was the first man in New England to "hotly condemn" a political caucus. Too indispensable to

have been out of important public office a single year of the twenty-four which he spent in New England and yet never quite attaining the highest, almost, but not quite the leading figure of his time, he chartered a vessel "to transport himself and his family to Vergenia" there to visit his brother before returning to his native land. When the Colony of New Haven in April 1654 confiscated the ship so chartered, he complained bitterly and departing soon afterward as above stated, sailed, I judge, direct to Ireland, for I can find no evidence of his going to Virginia, while the deposition of a Mr. Webster (State Archives private controversies Vol. II. doc.4) made in 1660 speaks of an event as having happened "about the time Mr. Ludlowe went for old England."*

Landing in Ireland he crossed over and was at Holyhead in September, 1654 where his cousin, Edmund Ludlow, Lieut. General of Cromwell's forces in Ireland, tells us in his memoirs that he met him and took him back to Dublin. There he was soon nominated by Cromwell, and on December 18th, 1654, appointed by the Lord Deputy and Council, to be a member of a Commission composed of men of the greatest distinction to settle claims relative to the forfeited lands in Ireland, and for other purposes. The record is as follows:

"It is ordered that Roger Ludlowe, Esq., be appointed Commn. for the administration of justice at Dublin and likewise for the adjudication of claymes and to that end it is ordered that he be inserted in the Respective Commission for that Purpose; and it is further ordered that he be added to the Commission for the administration of justice in the County of Corke, and inserted in the commssion for the Peace of the said County, to the end he may act in the administration of justice there until he shall be otherwise disposed of as there may be occasion for the most advantage of the Commonwealth."

He sat in this Commission during its life and on September 22, 1758, was paid "in full for his good services."

*After arriving at this conclusion I find it supported in a note by the late State Librarian Charles J. Hoadley in Vol. 41 New Eng. Hist. and Gen. Reg. P. 65.

Thereupon he was appointed on a new Commission ordered by the Lord Protector and associated again with men of note.

He also was made Master in Chancery for Ireland, a lucrative position of authority and great responsibility. The last known reference to his public labors is found in the Receiver General's accounts and is as follows:

“Dec. 16, 1659. To Mr Jonathan Ludlow (probably his oldest son) by Warrt. dated ye 12th of Dec'r, 1659, the sum of twenty pounds for ye use of Roger Ludlow for his care and pains taken in several publique services in this nacon, and is in ful satisfae'con of all past services done by him for ye Commonwealth.”

The last known reference to the man himself is the following entry in the records of Saint Michan's Parish Church in Dublin:

“1664, June 3. Burial, Mary Ludlowe, wife to Roger Ludlowe, Esq.”

From this it is apparent that the husband was then living and resident in Dublin.

No authority yet seen records his death or points to his grave.

If the Constitution which he devised was the Melchizadeck of Democracy, he himself appears to have been its Moses, and to have been punished, as was that first great lawgiver, for infirmities of temper.

He apparently took with him to Ireland his wife Mary Cogan and such of his six children, Jonathan, Joseph, Roger, Anne, Mary and Sarah, as were then born. One of these was born in Windsor. The birthplaces of the others we do not know. Sarah married Nathaniel Brewster, a nephew of Elder Brewster of Plymouth, and returning to this country died and is buried at Setauket, Long Island. Captain Caleb Brewster of Black Rock, of Revolutionary fame, was one of her descendants, and his grandson, Caleb Brewster Hackley, was the last of the Ludlowe line living in or near Fairfield unless what

the late Mr. Henry Mills thought probable ultimately proves to be true, that the wife and children of the President of this Society enjoy that enviable distinction.

It is not without regret that I have thus made my contribution to your evening's entertainment as dry and uninspiring as the index of a book of deeds. I was anxious but unable to do otherwise. The early records and contemporary literature of the town have been searched in vain for a human picture of our founder.

We are trusted with the knowledge that his pastor had one eye and great fervor, but of what parts was Roger Ludlowe?

Our curiosity is piqued by the long silences where during the fifteen years of his guardianship of our infancy some information might so easily have been given about his local interests, his community relations, his appearance, his family, and his social life.

That, when his fellow citizens were identified by their first names and habitually referred to without prefix or title, he was sufficiently described in Town and Colony and Federation as Mr. Ludlowe, and his constant public services duly noted, excites our pride but does not contribute to the intimacy we would like to feel.

He was the Colony's wise leader and capable executive, but he was our ancestors' friend and neighbor, and we resent the fact that we lack his picture and were so flippantly deprived of his declining years and continuing posterity. We are glad however that while he stayed we gave him of offices and land and confidence the best we had.

The makers of Connecticut history adorn her Capitol at Hartford, and among them is necessarily the subject of our sketch.

Brooks' splendid statue placed in the western niche on the north front in 1909 portrays him in cloak, doublet and short clothes, with a law book in his hand, strikingly intellectual and palpably combative as he looks out from the building where center the activities of that which he taught how to be

a State. The hair is long as was Cromwell's, whose example in that respect he is said to have followed, while the features are copied from an existing portrait of a relative.

Next to him stands John Mason, his fellow immigrant, quondam neighbor and life-long friend, and beyond Mason are Governors Eaton, Winthrop and Haynes.

Thus in memorial effigy as in active life he is one of and level with the choicest spirits of his time.

Connecticut's recognition of "the father of Connecticut Jurisprudence," as he was early called by Judge Thomas Day, though late is generous, for the Supreme Court room in the new State Library derives distinction from Herter's notable portrayal of the enactment of the Fundamental Orders in which Roger Ludlowe seated at the table dominates the group.

Except for three lines upon the boulder on our Green, the town which owes its existence to his discernment, and its early prominence to his repute, has paid no lasting tribute to his memory.

The preceding sketch was rendered possible by, and its author is greatly indebted to, Pres. John M. Taylor of Hartford the modern biographer of Ludlowe, and in a lesser but very considerable degree to The History of Fairfield by Mrs. Schenck, to the Article on Ludlowe by William A. Beers (late of Fairfield) in The Magazine of American History Vol. VIII, to Rev. Doctor Hart of Middletown, to Mr. Godard, the State Librarian and his assistants, and to many other kind friends and helpers whose united contributions have given to it such value as it has.—J. H. P.

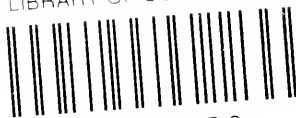
DOBBS BROS.
LIBRARY BINDING

ST. AUGUSTINE



FLA.
32084

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 014 110 495 0